

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 ACDA-19 /158 W

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R 060943Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2676

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

ZNE/AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 0920

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, VS, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH EDITORIAL COMMENT ON VIET-NAM

CEASE-FIRE

REF: STATE 20762

BEGIN SUMMARY: TURK PRESS RECENTLY HAS FOCUSED SCANT ATTENTION ON VIET-NAM. ONE RECENT EDITORIAL, HOWEVER, DOES TREAT FAVORABLY US/SOUTH VIETNAMESE POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE TURKISH PRESS, AT LEAST FOR THE LAST THREE AND ONE HALF MONTHS, HAS LARGELY BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE OCTOBER 1973 GENERAL ELECTIONS. WHAT FOREIGN POLICY COVERAGE THERE HAS BEEN HAS FOCUSED ON THE OIL CRISIS, DEVELOPMENTS IN NATO, AND WATERGATE. VIET-NAM, AS A RESULT, HAS RECEIVED SCANT COVERAGE. EMBASSY AND USIS HAVE REVIEWED RECENT TURKISH NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS AND HAVE FOUND ONLY ONE WHICH COMMENTS ON VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE SITUATION, AND THIS IN A MANNER FAVORABLE TJTHE US AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE. FURTHERMORE, IT IS BY A WRITER WHO OFTEN IS CRITICAL OF THE US, VETERAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPORTER AHMENT

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SUKRU ESMER OF LEFT-OF-CENTER JOURNAL BARIS. AN ENGLISH

LANGUAGE TRANSLATION OF PERTINENT PORTIONS OF HIS EDITORIAL  
OF JANUARY 29 ENTITLED "IS WAR BEGINNING IN VIET-NAM?"  
FOLLOWS.

2. "WHILE KISSINGER IS TRYING TO STOP THE WAR IN THE MIDDLE  
EAST, THE WAR WHICH HE HAD PUT AN END TO A YEAR AGO IN  
SOUTHEAST ASIA SEEMS ABOUT TO START AGAIN. THIS TIME,  
NOT ONLY DOES IT INVOLVE SOUTH AND NORTH VIETNAM AND THE VIET  
CONG, BUT CHINA MAY BECOME INVOLVED AS WELL. AND YET A  
YEAR AGO, BECAUSE HE HAD MANAGED TO END THE WAR IN VIET-  
NAM, KISSINGER HAD BEEN AWARDED THE NOBEL PRIZE. AFTER  
THE CEASE-FIRE, NORTH VIETNAM CONTINUOUSLY INFILTRATED  
TROOPS AND WEAPONS INTO SOUTH VIETNAM AT THE TIME THE  
CEASE-FIRE TOOK PLACE, ACCORDING TO THE AMERICANS THERE  
WERE 145,000 NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM,  
WHILE ACCORDING TO THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT THERE WERE 300,000.  
IT IS REPORTED THAT, WITHIN THIS LAST YEAR, 100,000 MORE  
INFILTRATED, SOME OF THESE WOMEN. PRUDIDENT THIEU HAS NOW  
STATED THAT THERE ARE 400,000 NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN  
HIS COUNTRY, AND THAT HANOI IS PREPARING A MAJOR ATTACK....  
ACCORDING TO THIEU, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN THE SAME PERIOD BUILT  
TWELVE AIRFIELDS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. FOR THIS REASON, SOUTH  
VIETNAMESE FORCES HAVE BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY BOMBING NORTH  
VIETNAMESE FORCES WITH THE INTENT OF DESTROYING COMMUNIST  
CONCENTRATIONS AND INFILTRATION ROUTES..... WHILE NORTH AND  
SOUTH VIET-NAM HAVE BEEN CLASHING, (THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF  
CHINA HAS ENTERED THE CONFLICT OVER A SERIES OF ISLANDS (THE  
PARACELS) OFF THE COAST OF VIET-NAM..... THESE ISLANDS ARE  
OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE, AS THEY ARE IN THE CENTER OF THE  
TERRITORY OF VIET-NAM, AND BESIDES THE CHINESE HAVE STARTED  
EXPLORING FOR OIL IN THIS AREA. ONE CANNOT TELL HOW FAR THIS  
CLASH BETWEEN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CHINA WILL GO. ALREADY  
FIGHTING FOR ITS LIFE AGAINST THE NORTH, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT  
SOUTH VIET-NAM CAN CONTEMPLATE ENGAGING IN A CONFLICT WITH  
CHINA TOO."  
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## Message Attributes

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